

provides thousands of high-paying jobs in this country. In Nevada alone more than a thousand miners have been laid off due to the already depressed gold prices. A further decline would be a serious blow to rural communities in many States, including Nevada, and across this country, since many of them heavily rely on the stable price and production of this commodity.

While I understand the motives of those who support the HIPC initiative, I do not believe that the sale of IMF gold reserves is the best way to be helpful. Gold plays a special and significant role in the economies of this country and those around the globe as well, and this Congress should not take affirmative actions to adversely impact its value.

Accordingly, I oppose any initiative to sell the IMF gold reserve, and strongly urge my colleagues to do the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### SAVE THE TIDAL BASIN BEAVERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Madam Speaker, I would like to identify with the remarks of my colleagues tonight on the very heavy issue of Kosovo. However, Madam Speaker, I am going to turn our attention back clear across to this side of the globe and to Washington, D.C. because, Madam Speaker, it is with great alarm that I ask my colleagues to join me in asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide immediate and emergency protection for the Tidal Basin beaver.

Over 200 years ago General George Washington chopped down a cherry tree. Now, had General Washington had this happen at this time in his life, and a little later on, and if he lived today, he would have been disgraced in the nightly news, his wife trapped and hauled off, with his child being pursued by trappers.

I do not think this is the way to go, Mr. Speaker. It is time that we stand up and stop this pitiful removal of Bucky, the beaver. When you remove an indigenous species the effects are longstanding, and these beaver have made their pilgrimage back to their homeland where their ancestors once frolicked. They built dams and raised their families.

The cherry trees surrounding the Tidal Basin are not even native to the District of Columbia, they were imported from Japan. These beaver are indigenous to this area. This is their natural habitat. These beaver are also

an important part of the ecology in the District of Columbia and its unique environment.

Out West it is the policy of the Federal agencies to remove the people, rather than the animals, when there is a conflict between people and wildlife. Now, beaver are members of the Rodentia species, which include rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, and rats.

Out West, in California, when a farmer accidentally ran over a rat, a kangaroo rat, with his tractor, the farmer was arrested and charged with a criminal taking of an endangered species, and his tractor was impounded so he could not use it anymore.

I just think that we need to bring equality in the way that we handle threatened and endangered species.

Out in Idaho, the Federal Government is reintroducing gray wolves and grizzly bears into and near populated areas. The Fish and Wildlife Service claim this reintroduction will restore the Canadian gray wolf, which never did live in Idaho, and the grizzly to its natural habitat.

Although I think this is debatable, I strongly suggest equal treatment for Bucky the beaver, the Tidal Basin beaver. These little beaver deserve equal rights and protection under the law, if not for the sake of the animal kingdom, Madam Speaker, for the sake of humanity.

If these rugged, pioneering beaver can make it in the polluted and murky conditions of the Potomac and the Tidal Basin, then by goodness, they deserve to be free. This is nature's way of reintroducing the native beaver. It is a natural occurrence, and who are we to fool with Mother Nature?

As the future of the captive victim, Bucky the beaver, lies at the hands of the Fish and Wildlife Service, her mate and offspring are in danger of further separation from each other, their way of life, and the homestead that they were so diligently trying to create.

Gene pool testing will undoubtedly determine that Bucky the beaver is an evolutionarily significant unit. This distinct population segment of the Rodentia family must be saved. If the Canadian gray wolf and the grizzly bear are good for reintroduction in Idaho, then we ought to leave the poor little beaver alone in their native habitat in Washington, D.C.

Madam Speaker, I would like to say that this issue has spread all across the Nation, and even up into Alaska, where today a resolution was introduced in the Alaskan legislature by the majority leader of the Senate, Robin Taylor. I will enter that into the record, as well as a poem about Bucky the beaver, whose lyrics were written by Senator Robin Taylor, and they are very, very good.

I would like to make one last plea that we do all we can to save Bucky the beaver.

The poem and resolution referred to are as follows:

BUCKY BEAVER

[Lyrics By Senator Robin Taylor, Alaska State Senate, To be sung to the tune of Davy Crockett]

Bucky Bucky Beaver  
Let's fight to keep him free.  
A Potomac flood left him a facin'  
Life alone in the Tidal Basin.  
He survived right well with the squirrels and the bees  
And chewed up a couple of Cherry Trees.  
Bucky Bucky Beaver  
Let's fight to keep him free.  
The Park police now steal his food  
Try to trap him and treat him rude,  
He's a unique species and proud of that  
A livin' on some critical habitat.  
Bucky Bucky Beaver  
Let's fight to keep him free.  
Critters like Bucky sometimes don't fit  
The parky plans of the hypocrits.  
But he needs our help so one and all  
Give Al Gore a personal call . . . tell him  
Bucky Bucky Beaver . . . let's fight to keep him free.

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20(RES), IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE—FIRST SESSION

(By the Senate Resources Committee)

Sponsor(s): Senator Taylor

A RESOLUTION

Relating to the removal of beaver from Washington, D.C.

*Be it Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Alaska:*

Whereas the National Park Service is attempting to trap and remove at least two beavers from the vicinity of the Potomac Tidal Basin near the national Mall in Washington, D.C., because the beavers have downed four cherry trees and five white cedar trees; and

Whereas the natural wild and free roaming beaver were trapped to extinction in Washington, D.C., and the Potomac Tidal Basin beaver are only retaking habitat that the species has occupied forever and in which man is the trespasser; and

Whereas the return of beaver to Washington, D.C., will enhance the biological diversity of the nation's capital and the integrity of its residents, as cherry tree eating beavers cannot tell a lie; and

Whereas the unrestrained development of government buildings, highways, and urban sprawl in Washington, D.C. has destroyed beaver habitat, and immediate steps should be taken to halt all major construction projects; and

Whereas human activity in or around the Potomac Tidal Basin will undoubtedly have adverse effects on the new beaver colony; and

Whereas Washington, D.C., and the nation as a whole would benefit from greater efforts on the part of the National Park Service to assist and protect wildlife by excluding people from areas where wildlife is attempting to reestablish a foothold on its natural range in the nation's capital; and

Whereas federal law requires that the Potomac Tidal Basin is now, because of the beavers' pioneering effort, a critical habitat area; and

Whereas critical habitat areas are uniquely rare, and, without immediate enforcement of federal laws, this unique subspecies of Potomac Tidal Basin beaver will again become extinct; and

Whereas we have no information or good science about the habitat of the "Potomac Tidal Basin beaver," and a task force of scientists should immediately be impaneled and all human activity in the tidal basin area halted until a thorough and complete analysis has been completed; and